

"The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Research Ethics"

Ezekiel J. Emanuel, Christine Grady, Robert A. Crouch, Reidar K. Lie, Franklin G. Miller, and David Wendler, editors, 2008, 827 pages, Oxford University Press, \$150

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

"The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Research Ethics" is the most comprehensive work on this broad topic to date. It sets a high bar for clinical research writing of any kind and, for that matter, textbooks of any kind. Given the affordable price for such a massive volume (only \$65 for the 2011 paperback edition), there is no excuse for anyone interested in clinical research ethics not to possess a copy.

This book has been selected for
[The First Clinical Research Bookshelf](#)
Essential reading for clinical research professionals

Unlike many textbooks, this is not a homogenized, superficial introduction to the topic. Instead, it presents thoughtful analyses of each topic by authorities in the field. For example, the historical section covers 10 episodes, from "Walter Reed and the Yellow Fever Experiments" to "The Gelsinger Case."

The small font and large page size helps explain how each topic can be covered in some depth in a mere 11 pages, on average. Although the writing is information-rich, it is not arcane or overly intricate.

The book includes 73 essays by 87 contributors in 11 sections, as follows:

- A Selected History of Research with Humans
- Codes, Declarations and Other Ethical Guidance for Research with Humans
- Context, Purpose and Value of Clinical Research
- Scientific Design
- Participant Selection
- Risk-Benefit Assessments
- Independent Review and Oversight
- Informed Consent
- Respect for Human Research Participants
- Multinational Research
- Clinical Investigator Behavior

The book is available in bookstores.

Reviewer

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